

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2016**

In attendance were Chairman Carl F. Kowalski; Vice Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Clerk Scott J. Lambiase; Member Brian J. Bezanson; and Town Administrator Francis J. Lynam. Chairman Kowalski opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Kowalski asked everyone in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Kowalski announced the meeting is being recorded and televised by WHCAC.

Chairman Kowalski called for a moment of silence during which he asked everyone to keep in their thoughts and prayers the families of Jean McDonald and Claire Saltmarsh. Both Ms. McDonald, who was a member of the Council on Aging Board, and Ms. Saltmarsh, who was the mother of Finance Committee Member Kurt Saltmarsh, passed away recently.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve bill and payroll warrants. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept correspondence in the Read File. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Chairman Kowalski opened public forum and no one in attendance came forward to address the Board.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, September 13, 2016. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Friday, September 16, 2016. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 3-0-1 (Mr. Lambiase abstained).

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint David Codero to the position of Member of the Buildings, Facilities, and Capital Expenditures Committee for an indefinite term. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to set the solid waste fee to \$250.00 per unit for fiscal year 2017. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of the Friends of the Park to use the Town Hall Auditorium on Saturday, November 12, 2016, from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. to hold the 13th Annual Wine Tasting & Silent Auction; for a One-Day Liquor License and to waive the fee for said permit; and for use of the auditorium on Friday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m., and all day Saturday in order to set up for the event. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Town Clerk Dawn Varley to sign the warrant for the November 8, 2016 State/Presidential Election. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Disclosure by Special Interest Municipal Employee of Financial Interest in a Municipal Contract as required by G.L. c268A, §20(d) for Auxiliary/Special Police Officer Adam Salamone. Second Mr. Bezanson. Mr. Lynam explained this will allow Mr. Salamone to plow for the Department of Public Works while maintaining his status as a casual employee for the Whitman Police Department. Hearing nothing further, Chairman Kowalski asked for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor. So voted 4-0.

At 7:05 p.m. Chairman Kowalski opened a public meeting in connection with the application of Easy Auto Rentals, Inc., DBA Auto Towne Truck Sales (Robert Hayes) for a Class II Auto Dealer's License on the premises located at 808 Bedford Street. Mr. Bezanson stated that he had a chance to visit the site and Mr. Hayes has done a fantastic job in transforming it. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the application of Easy Auto Rentals, Inc., DBA Auto Towne Truck Sales (Robert Hayes) for a Class II Auto Dealer's License on the premises located at 808 Bedford Street subject to receipt of a surety bond as required by M.G.L., Chapter 140, Section 58; and final inspection/approval of the Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 3-0-1 (Mr. Salvucci abstained).

Chairman Kowalski read aloud a letter received from Superintendent of Schools Ruth Gilbert-Whitner on behalf of the Whitman-Hanson Regional School Committee and the Regional School District commending the staff of the Whitman DPW for renovations to the walkways at the high school and the Whitman Middle School over the summer. Mr. Hayes also commented, saying the walkways heaved over the course of the winter, which resulted in the School Committee having to obtain bids for the project. The DPW came forward and offered to do the job, saving the town a substantial amount of money.

Mr. Hayes also took a moment to announce that the School Committee would like to invite the selectmen and finance committees from Whitman and Hanson to a meeting tomorrow night to discuss a strategic plan with respect to the school budget.

At 7:10 p.m. Chairman Kowalski opened a public meeting in connection with the application of Memorial Field Association, Inc., DBA American Legion Post #22 for new officers/directors on the premises located at 33 Legion Parkway. Manager Ralph Quimby advised the Board that the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission requires approval of the Board of Selectmen when there is a change in officers/directors. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the application of Memorial Field Association, Inc., DBA American Legion Post #22 for new officer/directors. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Mr. Lynam advised the Board of a change in the statute regarding the signing of bill and payroll warrants. Currently, three signatures are required; however, the change would allow the Board to designate one member of the board to sign the warrants, which could be reviewed and voted on at the next meeting. Chairman Kowalski asked if being able to obtain three signatures has been an issue. Mr. Lynam answered that it has, but not that often. He went on to say that this is not something that needs to be voted on tonight and that he just wanted the Board to be aware of

this new option. Mr. Salvucci asked if an alternate member could be designated in the event that the member that the Board had chosen as its designee was not available. Mr. Lynam stated the language is not clear and he has asked Town Counsel Michelle McNulty to look into it and report back to him. Chairman Kowalski suggested the Board wait to hear what Attorney McNulty comes up with.

Mr. Lynam announced that the property at 35 East Avenue was sold at auction for \$103,000. After paying the cost for the auctioneer and figuring in the carrying costs for the property while it was empty, we will come out as whole as we would have if the property had never been empty.

Mr. Salvucci reminded everyone that there are three vacant seats on the Whitman Hanson Cable Access Board. Anyone who lives in Whitman that is interested in sitting on this board should contact the cable studio.

Chairman Kowalski announced that semi-finalists for the Assistant Town Administrator position will be taking place this week. The finalists will be interviewed at a regularly scheduled meeting in November.

At 7:22 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** in accordance with the M.G.L., Chapter 30A, Section 21a, (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body. Second Mr. Bezanson. Roll call voted revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Lambiase – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski – yes. So voted 4-0. Chairman Kowalski declared that having this meeting in Open Session will have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body. The meeting will reconvene in Open Session for the purpose of adjourning the meeting.

At 8:30 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Scott J. Lambiase, Clerk